charging effluents into the river Ganga have been directed by the Central Government to instal effluent treatment facilities according to a time-bound programme. Two units have been directed to close down and one has been issued a notice for closure.

(ii) The Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board has refused consent in 18 cases under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(iii) Prosecutions have been launched against 22 public sector undertakings under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(iv) Industries have been directed to put up effluent treatment facilities.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

*115. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that official wholesale price index for all commodities (base 1970-71) touched 441 points in October, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the factors responsible for such rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Wholesale Price Index (Base 1970-71 -100) for the week ending 15.10.1988 stood at 441.0. However, the index declined to 438.4 as on week ending 29th October, 1988 (latest available). At this level the increase in the index during the current financial year works out to 4.8 per cent which is only about half the increase of 8.8 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. This increase in the index is mainly due to normal seasonal factors.

ग्रामीण बैंकों का कार्यकरण

*116. **श्री शरद यादव** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ग्रामीण बैंकों की स्थापना के पीछे क्या-क्या उद्देश्य थे और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ग्रामीण बैंक अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति नहीं कर सके हैं और यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "ना" हो तो ग्रामीण बैंकों द्वारा की गई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि ग्रामीण बैंकों को निरन्तर घाटा हो रहा है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो ग्रामीण बैंकों की स्थापना के बाद से यह घाटा कितना हुआ है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) से (ङ) क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों की स्थापना का मुख्य उद्देश्य ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को कम लागत पर बैंकिंग सुविधाएं प्रदान करना था। जून 1988 के अन्त तक क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों ने 13568 शाखाएं खोली हैं। इनमें से 12491 शाखाएं अर्थात् लगभग 92 प्रतिशत शाखाएं ग्रामीण केन्द्रों में स्थित हैं। दिसम्बर 1987 के अन्त में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों की विभिन्न शाखाओं की जमाराशियां 2306 करोड़ रुपए और अग्रिमों की बकाया राशियां 2232 करोड़ रुपए थीं। इस प्रकार प्रति जमा खाता औसत 1027 रुपए और

प्रति ऋण खाता औसत 2390 रुपए बैठती है। अतः क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को बैंकिंग सुविधाएं प्रदान कर सके हैं। दिसम्बर 1987 के अन्त की स्थिति के अनुसार प्रारक्षित रकमों तथा अधिशेष रकमों का समायोजन करने के बाद क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बकों का कुल घाटा 103.71 करोड़ रुपए का था।

Assets of large Industrial Houses

*117. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any fresh assessment of the assets of large industrial houses;

(b) if so, what are the names of the top ten large industrial houses alongwith their assets;

(c) what are the details of arrears of income-tax, customs and excise duties pending realisation against these industrial houses; and

(d) what steps have been taken to speed up realisation of outstanding taxes and duties from these industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The names of the 10-Top Industrial Houses according to their assets as on 31.3.1988 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the Industrial Houses	Assets
1	2	3
1	Tatas . . .	4939 88
2	Birla . . .	4771.38
3	Reliance . .	2021.53
4	J.K. Singhania .	1426.67
5	Thapar . .	1151.48
6	Mafatlal . .	1050.50
7	Modi . . .	860 16
8	Larsen & Toubro .	830.56
9	M.A. Chidambaram	807 50
10	Bajaj . . .	777.79

(c) The total arrears of Income tax, Central Excise and Customs duty pending against ten top Industrial Houses are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of the Industrial House	Income tax as on 30-6-88	Customs & Central Excise duty as on 30-6-88
1	Tatas .	40.02	49.39
2	Birla .	17.49	12.72
3	Reliance .	32.84	0.16
4	J.K, Singhania	9.37	17.02
		out of Rs. 17.02 Crores Rs. 10.50 crores are Customs duty arrears)	
5	Thapar . .	2 84	2 67
6	Mafatlal . .	5.37	6 73
7	Modi . .	48 63	25 34
8	Larsen & Toubro	0 75	0 79
9	M.A. Chidambaram .	16 32	0 14
10	Bajaj . .	0 74	36.82

(d) The recovery of arrears of taxes is an on-going process and administrative, legal and other steps continue to be taken from time to time. These steps include moving the various Courts and appellate authorities for vacation of stays and early decisions and engaging eminent lawyers to defend Government interest effectively in important cases.